

GENES ENCODING MUTANT *P*-COUMARATE 3-HYDROXYLASE (C3H)  
AND METHODS OF USE

The present invention is directed to a method for altering secondary metabolism in plants, specifically phenylpropanoid metabolism. The present invention is further directed to a mutant *p*-coumarate 3-hydroxylase gene, referred to herein as the *ref8* gene, its protein product which can be used to prepare gene constructs and transgenic plants. The gene constructs and transgenic plants are further aspects of the present invention.